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therefore, we read that snakes drink both by lapping and by suction, we may surmise that the former is for the benefit of the tongue." The incubation of *Python sebae* is described, and the viviparity or oviparity of snakes generally, is clearly shown to depend simply upon the longer or shorter retention of the eggs within the body of the mother, and to vary in the same species. That some species afford a refuge for their young, is regarded as proved, and the author believes that this occurs in viviparous snakes, or in those in "which from some cause or other extrusion has been so postponed that the young are conscious of existence before birth." The habit is referred to a knowledge on the part of the young of the locality which formerly afforded protection, and remembrance on the part of the mother of previous protection afforded. The protrusion of the glottis during the act of swallowing, so as to enable the snake to breathe while the entire space between its jaws is occupied by living prey, is another little-known point in the economy of snake-life that is rendered clear in these charming pages.

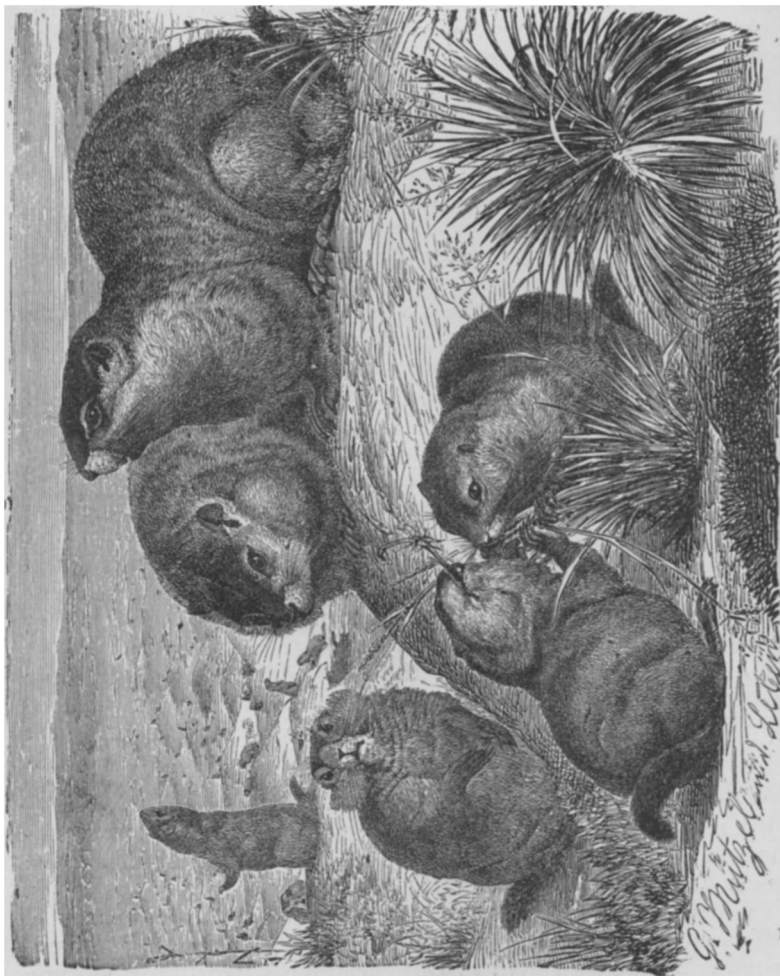
Fascination is explained as of varied origin, in some cases curiosity, in others fear, in still others maternal anxiety for the fate of the young. The swiftly darting tongue is spoken of as a successful lure for birds, which appear to mistake it for a worm or insect. Cures for snake bites are discussed, and it is shown that though many powerful stimulants are successful as remedies, no real antidote for snake-poison is yet known. The illustrations, though few, are well chosen, and most of them original, showing attitudes assumed by snakes under various conditions.

The general reader will find the book a fascinating one, while the more scientific student will rise from its perusal with the consciousness that, though he might have previously known a great deal about snake anatomy, he has learned something new about snakes themselves.

BULLETIN OF THE BUFFALO SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCES.—The final number of the fourth volume of the organ of this active society has just been received. It is a brochure of nearly 140 pages, and is devoted to an enumeration of the cryptogamic plants of Buffalo and its vicinity, in continuation of the catalogue of phænogamous plants, by David F. Day, forming Part III of the same volume. The first two numbers contain entomological, palæontological and ornithological papers of value.

THE STANDARD NATURAL HISTORY.—Nos. 7 to 10 of this valuable publication have reached us. In No. 8 the account of the stalk-eyed Crustacea, prepared by Mr. J. S. Kingsley, is finished; then succeeds the sessile-eyed Crustacea; the groups of Arthropoda of doubtful position, including the Pycnogonida, the Trilobites and Merostomata, as well as the Pentastomida, all prepared by Mr. Kingsley, who then offers an introduction to Class II, Insecta, the part closing with the commencement of an account

of the first sub-class, Malacopoda (Peripatus). This, like the other parts, is illustrated with well-printed wood-cuts.



The Prairie Dog at Home.

In Part 7 Dr. Coues completes the Rodentia. This order is succeeded by Dr. Gill's account of the Insectivora and Chiroptera. The work is both modern and popular in its treatment, and cannot fail to adequately fill a hitherto empty niche in the naturalist's library.

#### RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

*Hayden, F. V.*—General geologic map of the area explored by Dr. F. V. Hayden and the surveys under his charge, 1869 to 1880. From the author.

*Provancher, L.*—Petit Faune Entomologique du Canada et particulièrement de la province de Quebec, Vol II. Les Orthoptères, les Néuroptères, et les Hyménoptères. Quebec, 1883. From the author.